What is claimed is:

1. A substrate for an information recording medium, which substrate is made of an alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass, the glass having a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 620°C or higher and satisfying a requirement that the alkali ion elution amount per a unit area when the glass is immersed in water having a temperature of 80°C for 24 hours is 0.2 μmol/cm^2 or less,

2. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass contains SiO_2, Al_2O_3, CaO, BaO and K_2O as essential components.

3. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass is formed from SiO_2, Al_2O_3, CaO, BaO, K_2O, MgO, SrO, TiO_2, ZrO_2, Li_2O, Na_2O and ZnO.

4. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has no chemically strengthened layer and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO_2, 1 to 12 % of Al_2O_3, 2 to 25 % of CaO, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K_2O, 0 to 10 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO_2, 0 to 12 % of ZrO_2, 0 to less than 1 % of Li_2O, 0 to 8 % of Na_2O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO.

5. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO_2, 1 to 10 % of Al_2O_3, 2 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K_2O, 0 to 3 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO_2, more

than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO_2, 0 to less than 1 % of Li_2O, 1 to 8 % of Na_2O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO, the total content of SiO_2, Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2 being more than 70 % by weight,

6. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO_2, 1 to 10 % of Al_2O_3, 15 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K_2O, 0 to 3 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO_2, more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO_2, 0 to less than 1 % of Li_2O, 1 to 8 % of Na_2O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO.

7. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in any one of claims 1 to 6, which has an average linear thermal expansion coefficient (α), measured at a temperature of 100 to 300°C, of 70 x 10^{-7}/°C or more.

8. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass has a specific gravity of 3.5 or less.

9. The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in any one of claims 1 to 8, which is a substrate for a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

10. An information recording medium comprising an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in any one of the claims 1 to 9.

11. The information recording medium as recited in claim 10, which is a perpendicular magnetic recording

medium.

12. A process for producing an information recording medium, comprising the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium, the process employing the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in any one of claims 1 to 9 and comprising heating said substrate to 400 to 600°C in said step.